Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 CU-04 EUR-25

NEA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /216 W ----- 055609

R 071124Z NOV 73 FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1690 INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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BEGIN SUMMARY: FMG COMMISSIONER EXTAFF ARIKPO EXPECTED VISIT BRAZIL LATER THIS MONTH AS NEXT STEP IN FORGING WHAT BRAZILIANS HOPE WILL BE EVER-CLOSER TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

- 1. RECENTLY ARRIVED BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR HERACLITO LIMA TOLD AMBASSADOR NOVEMBER 5 THAT FMG COMMISSIONER EXTAFF ARIKPO IS SCHEDULED TO PAY "MINI STATE VISIT" TO BRAZIL NOVEMBER 18-24. ARIKPO HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO MAKE TRIP AND IS CURRENTLY STUDYING GOB PROGRAM PROPOSALS, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO DATE. AMBASSADOR IS HIMSELF GOING HOME AT END THIS WEEK TO PREPARE FOR ANTICIPATED VISIT.
- 2. HERACLITO LIMA OBSERVED THAT NIGERIAN-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS IN COMMERCIAL FIELD HAVE BEEN GROWING STEADILY SINCE VISIT HERE LAST NOVEMBER OF BRAZILIAN FONMIN GIBSON BARBOZA (LAGOS 9099). PRIVATE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION OF ABOUT 30 BUSINESSMEN RECENTLY CAME TO NIGERIA AT OWN EXPENSE, GOB IS PLANNING SPONSOR TRADE FAIR IN LAGOS BEGINNING CONFIDENTIAL

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OF DECEMBER, AND BRAZILIANS HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR

INCREASED COMMERCIAL AND INVESTMENT TIES IN VARIETY OF FIELDS. IN ADDITION ONGOING EFFORT PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN PETROBRAS AND NNOC (LAGOS 9537), HERACLITO LIMA IS LOOKING INTO SUCH THINGS AS MARKET FOR MACHINERY REQUIRED IN PROJECTED IRON AND STEEL COMPLEX, POSSIBLE VARIG SERVICE TO LAGOS, AND FILMS FOR TELEVISION USE AND OTHER CULTURAL PROGRAMS.

3. HERACLITO LIMA REMARKED THAT FMG SEEMINGLY WELCOMES BRAZILIAN INTEREST IN EXPANDING TIES WITH NIGERIA, PERHAPS BECAUSE IT HAS LESS FEAR OF SMALLER DEVELOPED NATIONS THAN OF SUPERPOWERS AND FORMER COLONIAL STATES. GOB HOPES IT CAN BUILD ON ETHNIC TIES BETWEEN BRAZIL AND NIGERIA, AND ENVISAGES PARTICULAR MARKET HERE FOR TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW WHICH BRAZIL CAN SUPPLY.

4. COMMENT: HERACLITO LIMA HAS ARRIVED ON SCENE WITH GREAT ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM, BUT HE WILL REQUIRE GREAT PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE IF HE IS TO REALIZE HIS AMBITIOUS HOPES FOR NIGERIAN-BRAZILIAN COOPERATION. NEXT TEST WILL BE WHETHER ARIKPO ARRIVES IN BRAZIL AS SCHEDULED, WHICH CANNOT BE TAKEN AT ALL FOR GRANTED GIVEN SUDDEN CANCELLATIONS IN PAST (FRENCH LAST WEEK GOT 24 HOUR NOTICE THAT ARIKPO NOT COMING) AND FLURRY OF CURRENT OAU ACTIVITY CONCERNING MIDDLE EAST. REINHARDT

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